Making your research compliant: the new REF 2029 Open Access policy

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What do the following acronyms stand for?

- AAM:
  - **Author Accepted Manuscript**
- CC:
  - **Creative Commons** (Licences)
- ISSN:
  - **International Standard Serial Number**

Image by juicy_fish

Overview of today's session

- What is Open Access?

- Recent developments
  - What has changed since the REF 2021 OA policy?

- What do I need to do to comply?

- How to identify:
  - your author accepted manuscript (AAM)
  - the 'date of acceptance'
  - publisher embargoes

- OA requirements for UKRI-funded researchers

- Questions and discussion

- Further support and resources

A recap: what is 'Open Access'?

- **Open Access** (OA) means online access to research outputs, which are free for anyone to view, read and download, without the need to log in or make a payment

- Where possible, Open Access materials should be free of most copyright restrictions. Many researchers use **Creative Commons** (CC) licences to make potential users aware of *how* they can use the work

  - GSA 'Creative Commons licenses explained' guide: http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/6955/

  - CC licence chooser: https://creativecommons.org/chooser/

Open Access - in a picture

"Green" and "Gold" Open Access

- Two main models of open access:
  - **Green OA**: author deposits the **accepted** version of their manuscript in an institutional repository (e.g. RADAR)

  - **Gold OA**: author publishes in an open access journal, where **Article Processing Charges (APCs)** may sometimes be charged
    - publisher immediately makes the **Version of Record** (VoR) available to read and download on their website for free
    - GSA has some **'Read and Publish' agreements,** where the APC is covered

- GSA's preference is for **Green OA**

Recent developments

- The [REF 2029 OA policy](#) was published on 11 December 2024

- Updates published to policy wording and [FAQs](#) in March and May 2025

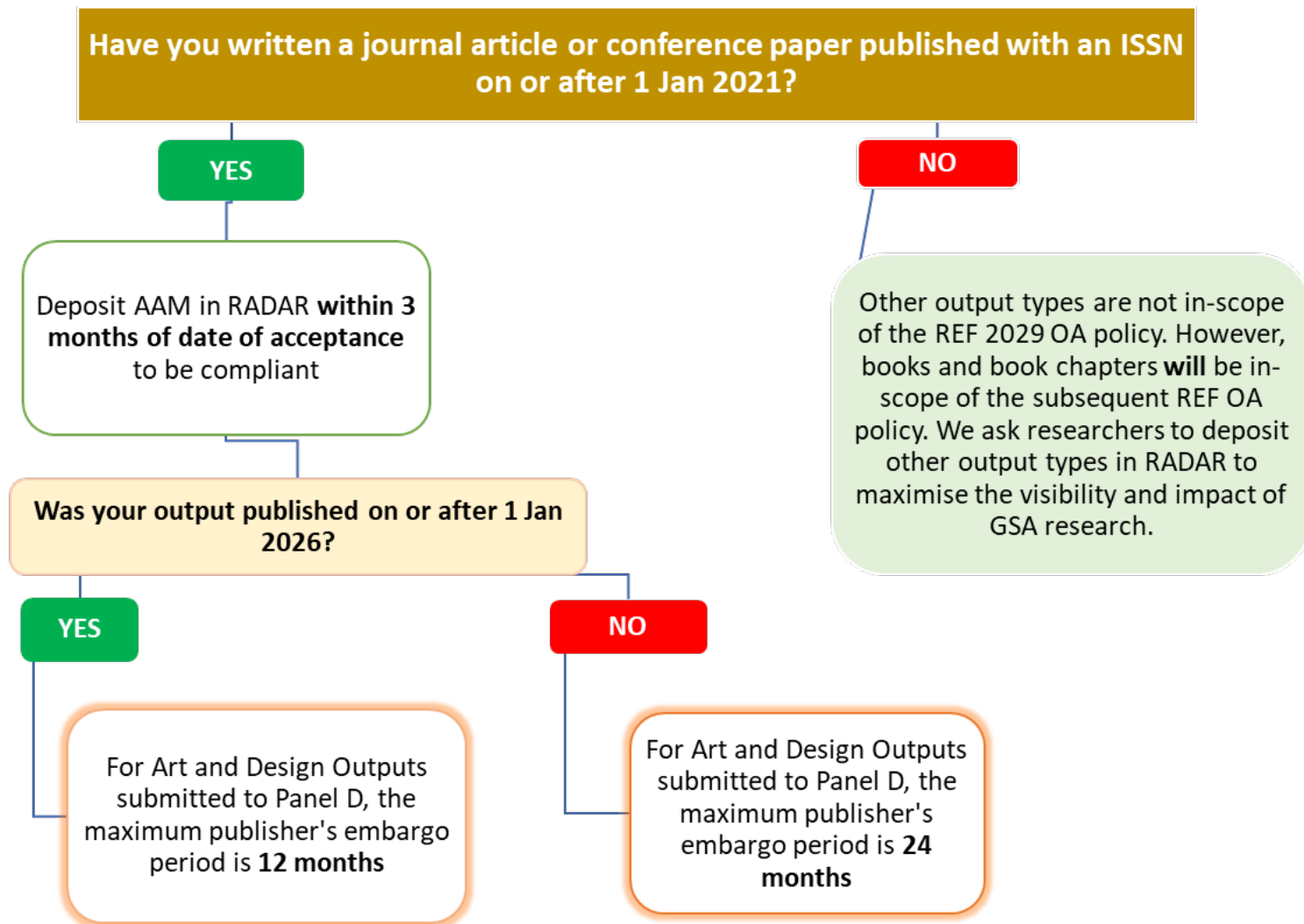# What's changed since the REF 2021 OA Policy?

- **shorter embargo periods** (halved from 24 months to **12 months** for Art and Design outputs submitted to REF Panel D)

- '**Longform' publications** (books and book chapters) are <u>not</u> in-scope of the 2029 policy, but they will be in-scope for the subsequent REF

- **new licensing requirements:** outputs should be licensed as openly as possible:
  - [section 7.5.2,](#) "Outputs should be shared as openly as possible; the funding bodies' strong preference is for licensing as **CC-BY** or other license formats meeting this standard of openness. However, licensing outputs at **CC-BY- NC or CC-BY-ND** (including **CC-BY-NC-ND**) or licenses meeting an equivalent standard of openness are also permitted."
  - Where the accepted manuscript is shared and the publisher does not allow a suitable open licence, the output will not need to meet the licensing requirements. However, the licensing requirements will apply to <u>all</u> in-scope outputs from 1 January 2029
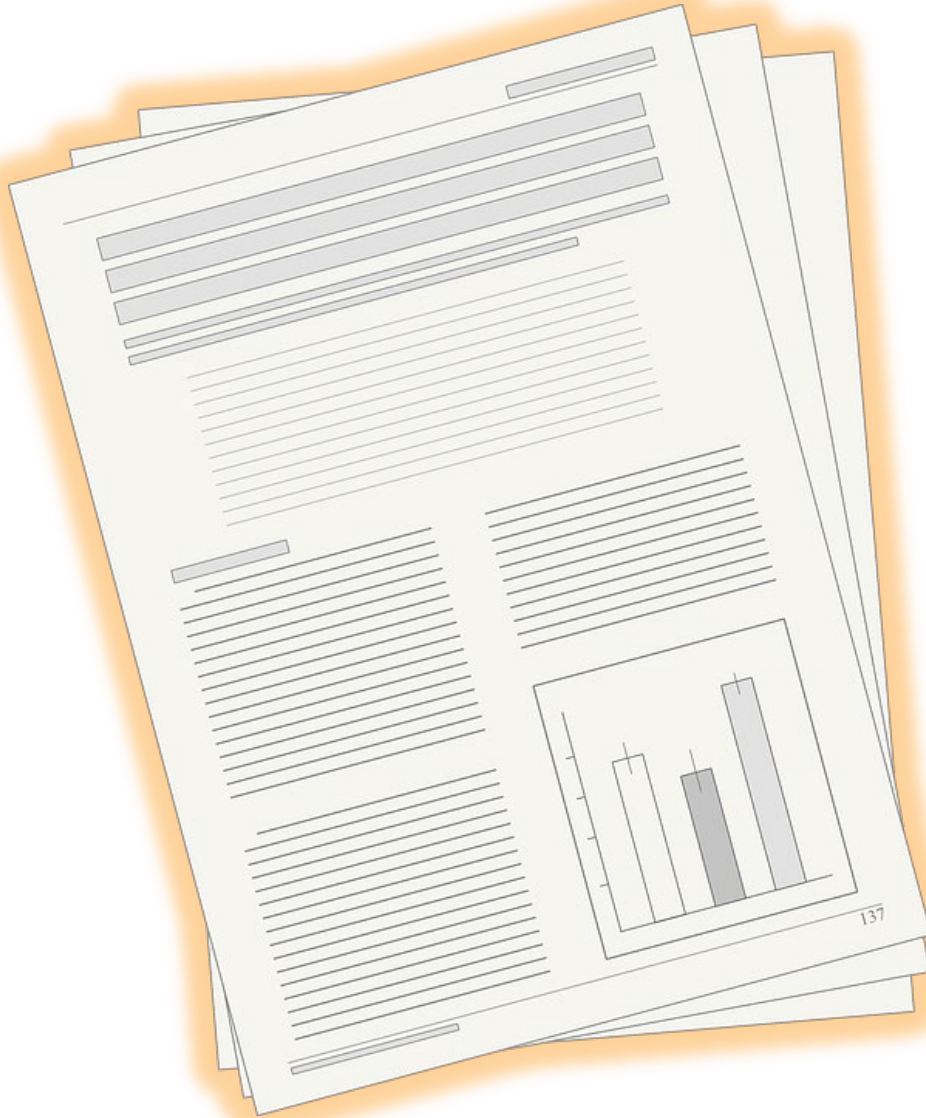
The REF 2029 OA policy only applies to *journal articles* and *conference papers* with an **ISSN** (International Standard Serial Number)
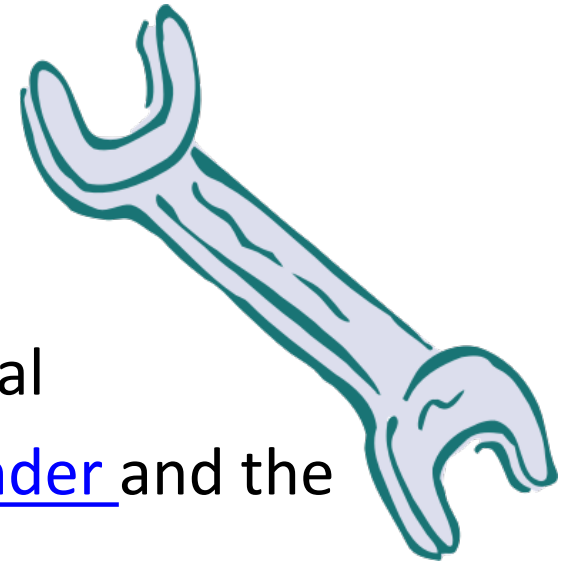
What do I need to do to comply?

Have you written a journal article or conference paper published with an ISSN on or after 1 Jan 2021?

YES

NO

Deposit AAM in RADAR **within 3 months of date of acceptance** to be compliant

Other output types are not in-scope of the REF 2029 OA policy. However, books and book chapters **will** be in-scope of the subsequent REF OA policy. We ask researchers to deposit other output types in RADAR to maximise the visibility and impact of GSA research.

Was your output published on or after 1 Jan 2026?

YES

NO

For Art and Design Outputs submitted to Panel D, the maximum publisher's embargo period is **12 months**

For Art and Design Outputs submitted to Panel D, the maximum publisher's embargo period is **24 months**

What does this mean for me?

- Potentially informs your choice of journal
    - Use tools such as [Jisc Open Policy Finder](#) and the [Journal Checker tool](#)

- Remember that you have access to [GSA's **'Read and Publish'** deals,](#) which enable you to publish 'Gold' OA, essentially for 'free'
    - please contact the RADAR team, ideally as soon as you are thinking of *submitting* to a journal!

Which version of a paper is the 'author's accepted manuscript' (AAM)?
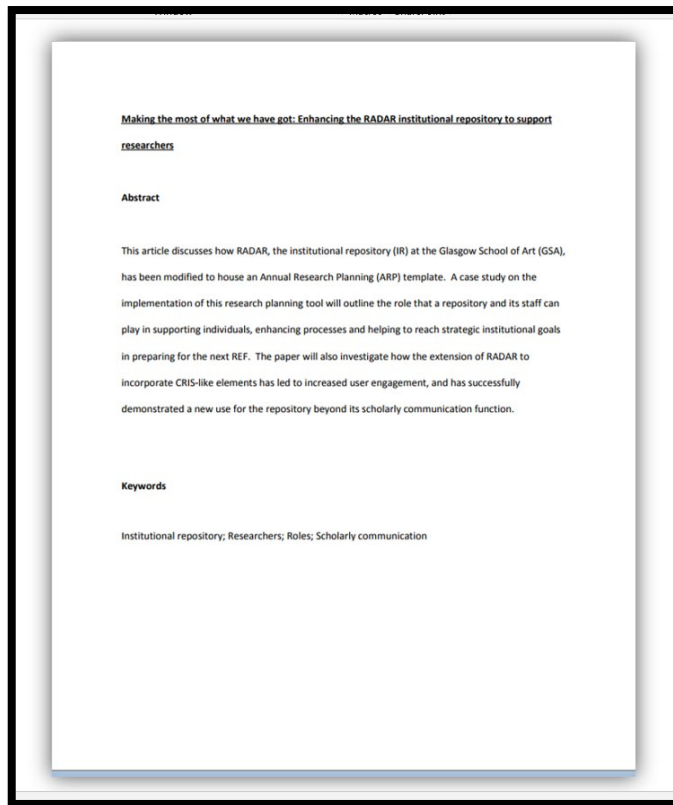
• An AAM is usually a plain text document – there should be no copy editing or typesetting
• There will usually be no page numbers
• There should be no publisher copyright statement or watermarks
• The text should be searchable

• A Version of Record (VoR) will usually contain:
-   the publisher's typesetting
-   the publisher's logo
-   page numbers
-   the publisher's copyright statement

What is the accepted date?
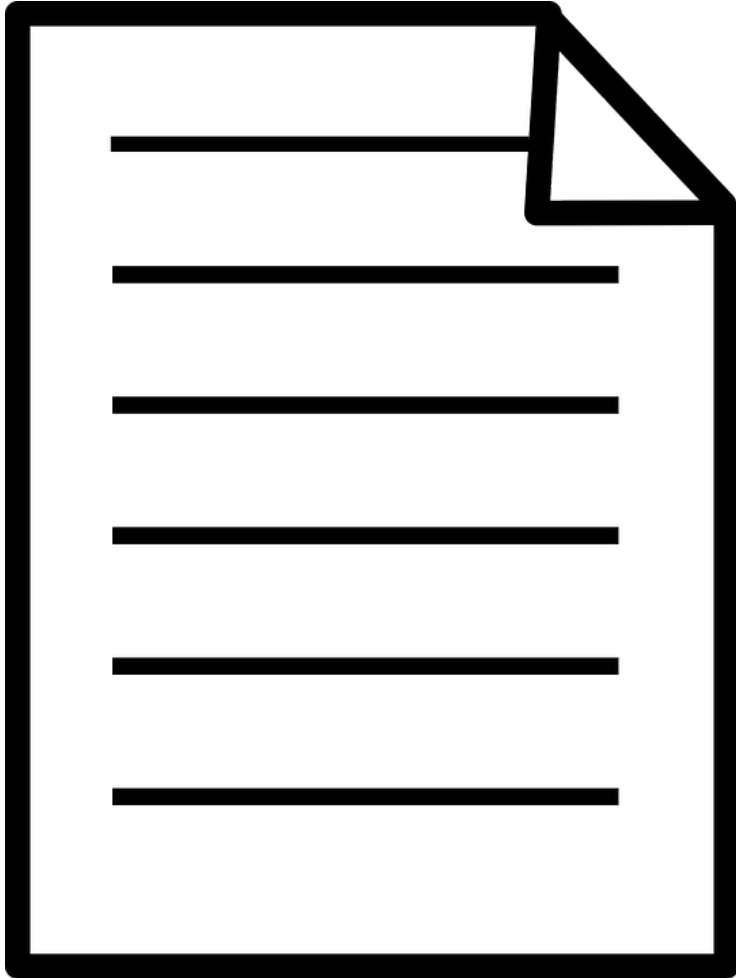
- The output has been reviewed by the journal or conference (normally via peer review)

- All necessary changes have been made in response to that review

- The paper is ready to be taken through the final steps toward publication (normally copy-editing and typesetting).

What if your paper requires an embargo?

EMBARGOED

- Embargoes are allowed under the REF OA policy.

- For REF Main Panel D outputs the **new** maximum embargo length is **12 months.**

Additional UKRI requirements: articles and papers

- From 1 April 2022, all **journal articles and conference papers** with an ISSN that acknowledge UKRI funding must:

  - be made **Open Access immediately** (this includes both the final published version *and* the AAM)

  - be published openly under a CC BY 4.0 licence

  - include an **ORCiD** and a **Data Access Statement** (even where there are no data associated with the output)

    - example of a Data Access Statement in a UKRI-funded research output: https://radar.gsa.ac.uk/9350/

Funding
The research detailed in this article was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council UK between 2017 and 2021: Scotland's Rock Art in Context, Grant Number AH/N00745X/1. Open Access publication was funded by Historic Environment Scotland.

Availability of data and materials
The datasets generated and analysed during the current study are available to search and download from the Scotland's Rock Art Project database and webite: https://www.rockart.scot/rock-art-database and Historic Environment Scotland's digital archive, accessible via the Canmore website: https://canmore.org.uk/collection/2219572.
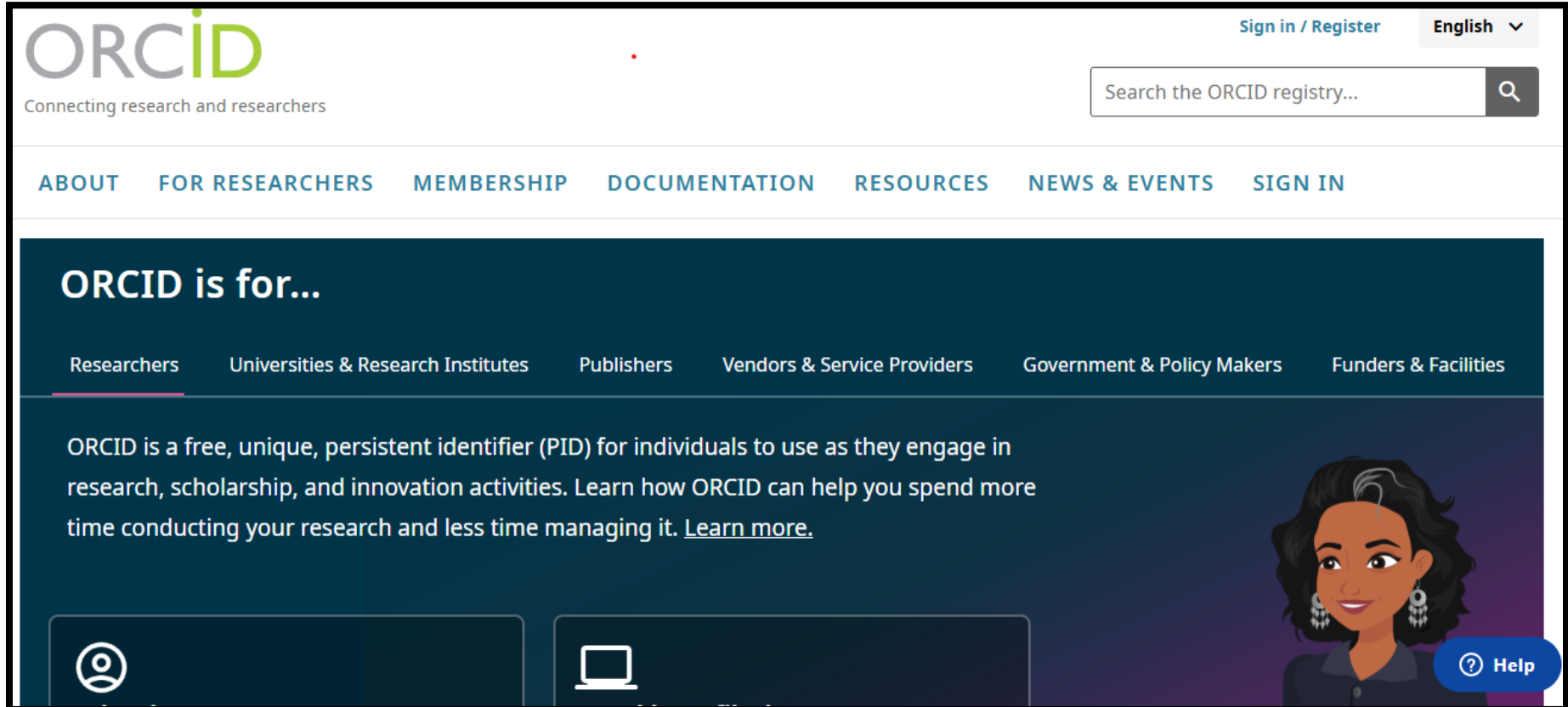
Additional UKRI requirements: books and chapters

- **'Longform publications',** i.e. books, book chapters and edited collections, published <u>on or after 1 January 2024</u>, that acknowledge funding from UKRI or any of its councils, must be made openly available *within 12 months of publication*

  - the version made available can be either the final published version or the AAM

  - the OA version must be made available under a **CC licence** (or equivalent open licence, e.g. Open Government Licence)

  - the OA version should include, *where possible*, any images, illustrations, tables and other supporting content

  - … but third-party materials <u>do not</u> require a CC licence, and can be subject to a more restrictive licence

What is an ORCiD?

- An Open Research and Contributor ID (ORCiD) is a unique, persistent identifier for you as a researcher
  - https://info.orcid.org/benefits-for-researchers/

Example of an ORCiD profile

https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6870-8481

We are your safety net – don't worry!

Here to help!

- **Karen Veitch**
  - Research Information Co-ordinator

- **Nicola Siminson**
  - Research Information Manager

- Information on [Open Access](#) is available via the Research intranet

- Information about RADAR, "How to…" guides, and FAQs are available from the **Help & Contact Information** page: http://radar.gsa.ac.uk/contact.html

- … or just email radar@gsa.ac.uk !

Any questions?